



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIRST LEGO Teams Qualify for Regional Championships

New Braunfels, TX – Five more library robotics teams qualified to attend the regional FIRST Lego League (FLL) Robotics championships after participating in regional qualifier tournaments at Roosevelt High School on January 18th and at Nimitz Middle School on January 21st.

In addition, the library's FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics team, Field Destruction, brought home the Judges' Award and was a finalist for the PTC Design Award at the Connally High School regional tournament in Austin on January 21st. Field Destruction was the third seed going into the finals at Connally. Although they were eliminated in finals match play, their robot performed well in both autonomous and driver-controlled game periods.

At Roosevelt, Field Destruction placed sixth out of over 30 FTC teams to earn their spot in the regional championship. FIRST LEGO League teams The Dracheneers and The Robo Alliance also got championship nods at the tournament. The Robo Alliance came in sixth in their robot game. The Dracheneers won the Mechanical Design trophy, which recognizes the team with a robot that is "durable, efficient, and highly capable of performing challenge missions."

At Nimitz, FLL team Mindstorms Pirates won the Innovative Solution trophy for their engineering project, an "amphibulance," or amphibious ambulance, designed to help get medical care to stranded flood victims. FLL team Technic Time Lords won the Presentation trophy for effective communication of their challenge idea, a portable pet supply kit for first responders to give to residents to help them care for their pets when they need to evacuate. All the FLL teams benefited from visits from New Braunfels Fire Department personnel, New Braunfels Community Emergency Response Team members, and Canyon Lake Fire Chief Shawn Wherry as they researched and practiced presenting their projects.

Field Destruction will compete in the regional championship tournament at Rackspace in San Antonio on February 7th and 8th. The Dracheneers, The Robo Alliance, Mindstorms Pirates, and Technic Time Lords will compete in the FLL regional championship at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center on March 1st.

Members of Field Destruction include Matthew D'Avanzo, Sam Flynn, Isabel Haus, Lili Haus, Garrett Malatek, Alec Parker, Ben Richter, Garrett Smiley, Alex Smith, and Kyle Spinks. To follow Field Destruction's season, follow FTC Team 6041 on Facebook and Twitter.

The Dracheneers include Kai Doolittle, David Dunlap, Mitchell Engel, Kenya Frias, Cameron Harrison, Andrew Leifeste, Precious Moers, Bryce Riggle, Michael Syamken, and Shiloh Thorner.

The Robo Alliance includes Jacob Adams, Elias Aristeguieta, Sam Karlovich, Emma Kirchhoff, Grant Morris, Gavin Nowacki, Jacob Oliver, and Layton Spinks.

The Mindstorms Pirates include Colin Griffiths, Vincent Jares, Micah Jeffries, Marah Moers, Garrett Morrison, Aidan Neff, Felix Rolon, Strayer Russell, Parker Simpson, and Mackenzie Thorner.

The Technic Time Lords include Daniela Ablin, Justin Ablin, Woody Bagnall, Cayden Damerau, Drew Gambrell, Grace Gambrell, David Nelle, Jayden Rowley, Ethan Ruiz, and Alexander Stucker.

FIRST Robotics is a worldwide 501(c)3 nonprofit supported by three out of five Fortune 500 companies. Its mission is to inspire young people to become science and technology leaders. For more information about robotics at the library, including joining or coaching a team, contact Kit Ward-Crixell at 830-221-4319.

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